Rockefeller CIA Report Sells Well

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Bound copies of the Rockefeller commission's report on activities of the Central Intelligence Agency went on sale yesterday, and interested buyers included cautious diplomats and sktptical students.

The Government Printing Office, which was selling the 312-page report at its bookstore for $2.85, said sales were steady but nowhere near the rush that occurred last year when transcripts of former President Nixon's White House taped conversations went on sale.

In addition to sales at GOP's bookstore, located at North Capitol Street between G and H Streets NW., the commission's CIA report was also being sold at the Pentagon, where the first 80 copies had sold out by 11:30 a.m. Sales in the Washington area had reached 1,045 by 4 p.m. yesterday.

By contrast, the presidential transcripts sold 5,000 copies in one hour, according to Dave Brown, a printing office spokesman, who said total sales of the transcript volumes were more than 58,000 copies spanning a three-week period.

Mike Berlin, a graduate student in public affairs at George Washington University, was skeptical but interested in the commission's report. "My interest is to find out how deep the unaccountability of the CIA has gone," he said.

"I think the Ford administration and the Rockefeller commission are trying to do their best, but I don't think all of the details will come out," Berlin said. "It's just too embarrassing. But the investigation is a step in the right direction."

Steve Cryden, who bought 31 books for the Center for National Security Studies, said it appeared "they've discovered some important things from what I've heard in the news media, but I don't think they've done a complete job."

Officials from three foreign embassies, Czechoslovakia, Finland and Sweden, who asked not to be identified, also bought copies of the report. One said a copy would be sent to the foreign minister of his country.

Richard Neumann, an instructor at the Wayne State University law school, bought a copy to aid him in his research for an article on government crime. "I'm sure some things were left out, but it still looks like it would be a virtual encyclopedia of government crime," he said.

A clerk in the bookstore, Patricia Simmons, said GOP has been receiving calls about the report since Tuesday. About 15,000 were printed for public sale and another 10,000 were sent to the commission.

Beverly Manning, an employee at Xerox, just happened on the book while browsing. "Not that I expect fo find out all they've doing," she said, "but some things will surpriase me . . . I hope."